

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-29. (Canceled)

30. (New) A method for determining an IBD or pre-IBD phenotype of a test cell from a given tissue, said method comprising:

(a) contacting the mRNA of said test cell with at least 5 different nucleic acid probes, wherein each of said probes is at least 12 nucleotides in length and is complementary to the mRNA of a gene shown in Table 1; and

(b) determining an approximate amount of hybridization between each of said probes and the mRNA of said gene shown in Table 1, wherein said amount of hybridization either more or less relative to a control cell of the given tissue type indicates that said test cell has an IBD or pre-IBD phenotype.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein said amount of hybridization is either more or less by at least a factor of two.

32. (New) The method of claim 30, which is used to assess a patient's risk of having or developing an inflammatory bowel disease.

33. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein said test cell is an intestinal cell.

34. (New) The method of claim 30, comprising contacting the mRNA of said test cell with at least 10 different nucleic acid probes.

35. (New) The method of claim 30, comprising contacting the mRNA of said test cell with at least 25 different nucleic acid probes.

36. (New) The method of claim 30, comprising contacting the mRNA of said test cell with at least 50 different nucleic acid probes.

37. (New) The method of claim 30, comprising contacting the mRNA of said test cell with at least 75 different nucleic acid probes.

38. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein said genes belong to distinct functional classes.

39. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein said contacting comprises in situ hybridization.

40. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein said contacting comprises hybridization to said nucleic acid probes immobilized on a solid support.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein said nucleic acid probes are immobilized in a two-dimensional array.